

# A WORD ON WORSHIP

JANUARY 27, 2013

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

## *Mark 12:6-10*

“He had one more to send, a beloved son; he sent him last of all to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ “But those vine-growers said to one another, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours!’ “They took him, and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard. “What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the vine-growers, and will give the vineyard to others.”



The world of wicked tenants described in the parable given by Jesus is very much like the world we live in. The tenants will stop at nothing to get what they want. They do not care that they have made obligations of themselves for the fruit of their labor; in the end they want what they want and will take it by any means necessary. They have not forgotten who owns the land, but their covetousness knows no bounds and leads them to say “mine is the power, the kingdom and the glory.” Do humans think that by erasing God from their lives that they can control their earthly and eternal destinies? Even when they have killed the son, they still have God to contend with.

To many, God seems to be the absentee landlord and a foolish one at that. They want to establish themselves as the lords of their little world rejecting the reality that they are creations of God and live in God’s vineyard. People think they will get away with it, but God’s judgment will inevitably come. The parable assures us that God will win even when it seems He has lost. Those who reject God’s claims on their lives and God’s call to repentance will always be losers, even when it seems they have won. They sow the seeds of their own destruction.

This parable particularly applies to the church today. Israel was chosen by to fulfill God’s gracious purpose for the whole world. God equipped them for the task, but they mistook that assignment as a special privilege and wanted to be accountable only to themselves, not God. If you ask what fruit God requires from us today, the answer comes from what immediately precedes and follows the parable. God requires that our place of worship be a house of prayer for all people and that our community be a forgiving one. We are to render to God what belongs to God and to love God with all of our heart, strength and mind and to love our neighbors as ourselves. In other words, God expects the vineyard – God’s people – to be an accepting, prayerful, forgiving, devoted and loving fellowship of people built around His Son, Jesus Christ. Whenever we fall short of this standard, we invite God’s judgment.

*Sunrise Community Church*  
*Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst*  
**EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.**

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# What's Happening at Sunrise

## February 2013

FEBRUARY 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	1	2



Jan. 27	8:45 a.m.	Mark 11 verse 27 to 12 verse 12 <i>Who Does Jesus Think He Is?</i>
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
Jan. 30	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in Galatians
Feb. 1	7:00 p.m.	Game Night
Feb. 3	8:45 a.m.	Mark 12 verse 13-27 <i>Why We Know the Pharisees Underwear Brand</i>
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
Feb. 5	7:00 p.m.	No Bible Study (Pastor Andy Working)
Feb. 8	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night Fellowship
Feb. 10	8:45 a.m.	Mark 12 verse 28 to 37 <i>The Relationship between the Law ... Love</i>
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	7:00 p.m.	Night of Community Prayer
Feb. 12	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in Galatians
Feb. 13		Ash Wednesday
Feb. 14		Valentine's Day
Feb. 15	7:00 p.m.	Game Night
Feb. 17	8:45 a.m.	Mark 12:38 to 44 <i>When Less is More</i>
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
Feb. 19	7:00 PM	Bible Study in Galatians
Feb. 22		Camellia Festival
Feb. 23		Camellia Festival
Feb. 24	8:45 a.m.	Mark 13 verses 1 to 13 <i>Temple Talks</i>
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School Camellia Festival



## Christian Converts Face Criminalization of their Faith in Iran

WWW.IRANHUMANRIGHTS.ORG JAN. 16, 2013

*New Report Finds Severe Restrictions on Religious Practice; Arbitrary Arrests and Detentions Common*

The Iranian authorities should immediately end their systematic persecution and prosecution of Protestants and Christian converts, the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran said in a new report released Jan. 16.

The 73-page comprehensive report, *The Cost of Faith: Persecution of Christian Protestants and Converts in Iran*, documents a pattern of rights violations that extends to all walks of life for Protestant converts in Iran: they face severe restrictions on religious practice and association, arbitrary arrests and detentions for practicing their faith, and violations of the right to life through state execution for apostasy and extrajudicial killings.

"The egregious violations of Christians' rights, which include not only the inability to freely practice their religion, but also the threat of torture and death at the hands of state officials, go against all international law. The international community must let the Iranian government know this is unacceptable," said Hadi Ghaemi, Executive Director for the Campaign. The report is based on interviews with 31 Christians throughout Iran from April 2011 to July 2012.

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